

REMARKS

Applicants' representative thanks Examiner Lucchesi for his consideration and communication. Applicants desired to make claim amendments following their reply to the previous action for purposes unrelated to patentability, and the Examiner indicated that if supplemental amendments were filed within a week or two of August 14, 2007, they would likely be considered. Applicants therefore submit the amendments presented herein.

The specification has been amended at paragraphs beginning on page 7 as filed, which corresponds to paragraphs 0032 and 0033 (as published), to delete reference to numerals that weren't provided on the drawings as filed. Applicants do not believe that these reference numerals are necessary to provide a clear understanding of applicants' invention.

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 9, 10, 16, 18, 19, 24, 29 and 32 have been amended; claims 8, 11-13, 20-23, 25, 26, 30, 31 and 33-55 have been cancelled; and claims 56-65 have been added. Following the amendments, claims 1-7, 9, 10, 16-19, 24, 28, 29, 32 and 56-65 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 6, 18 and 56 being in independent format.

Claims 1 and 18 have been amended to delete the recitation of a sealed lumen and ports communicating with a sealed lumen. Claims 6 and 18 have been amended to delete the recitation of the control pod housing operational components for advancing the catheter system. Claim 6 has additionally been amended to specify that the torque selection feature provides operator selection of preselected torque levels delivered by the drive assembly. This amendment is made for purposes of clarification. Claim 18 has additionally been amended to recite that the actuator is in operable communication with the drive system and incorporates a switch that activates at least one of the drive system and an aspiration system. This aspect of applicants' claimed invention is described in applicants' specification, as filed and as published, for example, at paragraph 0064. These claim amendments are not made in response to outstanding rejections, and are not made for reasons relating to patentability.

The dependency of many claims has been amended to recite multiple dependencies and many of the previously presented claims have consequently been cancelled. These amendments are made for purposes of clarity.

Claims 56-65 are new. Claim 56 presents the subject matter of previously presented claim 20 in an independent format without reciting the actuator recited in claim 18. Claim 57


depends from new claim 56 and recites subject matter previously presented in claim 21. Claim 58 recites subject matter described throughout the application as filed (and published) and specifically described, for example, at paragraph 0030. Claim 59 recites subject matter specifically described in the application as filed (and published), for example, at paragraph 0043. Claim 60 recites subject matter specifically described in the application as filed (and published), for example, at paragraph 0045. Claim 61 recites subject matter specifically described in the application as filed (and published), for example, at paragraph 0043. Claim 62 recites subject matter specifically described in the application as filed (and published), for example, at paragraph 0043. Claim 63 recites subject matter specifically described in the application as filed (and published), for example, at paragraph 0065. Claim 64 recites subject matter previously recited in claim 18 and described in the application as filed. Claim 65 recites subject matter specifically described in the application as filed (and published), for example, at paragraph 0066.

It is urged that support for all the above amendments may be found in the specification as originally filed and that none of the amendments constitute new matter or raise new issues for consideration. Entry and consideration of these amendments is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, applicants believe that the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Early consideration and allowance of all the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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